



# United States Department of Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service  
Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office  
405 North French Road, Suite 120A  
Amherst, New York 14228



## LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

# MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT March 2002



405 NORTH FRENCH ROAD  
SUITE 120A  
AMHERST, NEW YORK 14228  
COMM: 716-691-5456  
FAX: 716-691-6154  
E-MAIL: FIRST NAME\_LAST\_NAME@FWS.GOV  
WEB: HTTP://LOWERGREATLAKES.FWS.GOV

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### LGLFRO Staff

Chris Castiglione, GIS Specialist  
Dan deRoos, Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Jeff Diers, Biological Technician  
Kofi Fynn-Aikins, Chief  
Sandra Keppner, Invasive Species Coordinator  
Mike Sowinski, Biological Technician  
Gail Testa, Administrative Officer  
Betsy Trometer, Fishery Biologist  
Gwen Warren, Office Automation Assistant  
Maureen Waterman, Biological Technician  
Mike Weimer, Fishery Biologist

### Volunteers

Zach Dylong, Mike Jerla, Paul Kozacki, Jr.

### LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

Betsy participated in a conference call on the Lake Sturgeon Coordination Meeting to be hosted by the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team Lake Sturgeon Subcommittee (3/25). The group discussed steering committee membership, possible meeting dates and locations, meeting format, and technical session topics.

Mike W. attended an interagency meeting in Sarnia, Ontario for investigators working on the Great Lakes basin lake sturgeon population

genetics study (3/7). Meeting participants coordinated upcoming field activities, including sampling dates, locations, gear, and tissue collection procedures.

### LAKE TROUT RESTORATION

Betsy wrote a section of the Lake Erie Coldwater Task Group Annual Report summarizing the status of burbot in Lake Erie. The report was distributed at the Annual Lake Erie Committee Meeting (3/27-28).

### GREAT LAKES BASIN ECOSYSTEM TEAM

Sandra and Kofi participated in a conference call of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team Executive Committee (3/4). Discussions focused on identifying agenda items for the upcoming Executive Committee and Team meetings and general results from the State of the Team Survey.

Mike W. and Betsy participated in a conference call of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team Lake Sturgeon Subcommittee (3/12). Coordination of 2002 lake sturgeon sampling activities, reporting requirements for activities completed during 2001, workshop planning, and outreach activities were discussed.

### LAKE ONTARIO

Betsy attended the Annual Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Ontario Meeting in Buffalo, NY (3/26-27).

### LAKE ERIE

Betsy and Jeff attended the Annual Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Erie Meeting in Buffalo, NY (3/27-28).

Betsy wrote a section of the Lake Erie Forage Task Group Annual Report summarizing the 2001 Lake Erie Lower Trophic Level

Assessment Program. The report was distributed at the Annual Lake Erie Committee Meeting(3/27-28).

## **INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM**

### **Coordination**

Sandra participated in the American Fisheries Society - Pennsylvania Chapter Semi-Annual Meeting in Mansfield, PA (3/22). The meeting featured a technical session on aquatic nuisance species. Sandra was one of three speakers invited to participate in the session. Her presentation was entitled, *Federal Perspectives on Aquatic Nuisance Species*.

Sandra participated in a conference call of the Communications, Education, and Outreach Committee of the Northeast Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (3/27). Discussions focused on development of a Panel brochure and fact sheet, progress on development of the web page, the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference Symposium, and plans for the upcoming May meeting of the Panel.

Sandra and Mike W. are collaborating with Eric Obert (Pennsylvania Sea Grant) to host a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Training workshop in the Northeast for federal and state hatchery personnel. Application of the HACCP training within federal and state hatchery systems would minimize the risk of introducing aquatic invasive species through these vectors. The training is also applicable to the aquaculture and bait industries.

### **Round Goby**

Jeff participated in the Annual Great Lakes Research Consortium Conference in Syracuse, NY (3/15-16). His presentation, *Laboratory Analysis of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass Predation on Round Goby and Emerald Shiner* provided an overview of preliminary results and methods used in this feeding study.

### **Ruffe**

The report, *Surveillance for Ruffe in the Great Lakes, 2001*, was completed and distributed at both the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario Committee Meetings.

## **Contaminants**

Jeff continued to prepare round goby tissue samples for contaminant analysis.

## **HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION**

Mike W. participated in a site visit to the Seneca Bluffs Wetland Restoration Project on the Buffalo River (3/20). Representatives from several agencies and institutions toured the site as a first step at finalizing the site's restoration plan.

Mike W. and intern Zach Dylong conducted a survey of fish and benthic invertebrates in a portion of Ellicott Creek in Amherst, NY (3/13). Habitat data, including water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels, were also recorded. Data will be added to the ongoing database for Ellicott Creek.

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE**

### **MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS)**

#### **Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS)**

Dan and Maureen met with Jim Mathews (914<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering) to discuss the completion of the Landscape Management Plan (Plan)(3/25). The Plan was completed, bound, and delivered to the NFARS..

## **GIS AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT**

Chris attended the Region 5 Project Leader's meeting in Norfolk, VA (2/28 - 3/1). Chris participated in the Fisheries and Ecological Services breakout session giving the presentation, *Overview of the National Inventory of Barriers*.

Chris participated in the Great Lakes Basin Aquatic GAP Analysis meeting in Muskegon, MI (3/4-5). Through this cooperative effort, led by the USGS - Great Lakes Science Center, large-scale spatial analyses of habitat and species distributions are being used to identify gaps in the conservation of aquatic species or communities.

Chris participated in the Great Lakes Coastal GAP Analysis meeting (3/15). The Coastal GAP Analysis project, led by the USGS - Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science, focuses specifically on spatial analysis of habitat and

species distribution within the nearshore areas of the Great Lakes.

Chris participated in the Region 5 GIS Coordination Team Spatial Data Library (SDL) subcommittee meeting (3/19). The SDL subcommittee is developing recommendations for implementing field station access to spatial data.

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

The staff of the LGLFRO participated in the Western New York Outdoor Sport and Travel Expo (3/7-10). The office display highlighted various program activities including lake sturgeon restoration and invasive species awareness and prevention. Approximately 22,000 adults attended the event.

Betsy and Mike W. provided display posters and handouts on lake sturgeon restoration and invasive species prevention, as well as some background material on blue pike to Dave McQuay (NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) for the *Fish of the Great Lakes* program held at Woodlawn Beach State Park (3/7). Fifty-two people attended the program.

## **STAFF TRAINING**

Staff from the LGLFRO successfully completed the “Workplace Training: Adult CPR” refresher training course (3/11).

## **OTHER**

Kofi and Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant Program) hosted a group of individuals, who were visiting the Buffalo/Niagara Region as part of the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Program (3/14). The visitors were interested in binational cooperation on Great Lakes issues. Kofi and Helen discussed current cooperative initiatives addressing environmental problems in the Great Lakes. The visitors came from Nigeria, Botswana, Croatia, and Syria.

Kofi attended the National Workforce Management Workgroup meeting in Denver, CO (3/19-21). The focus of the Workgroup is to determine critical staff size and the mix of expertise needed to support various types and sizes of hatcheries, and the most effective organization and positioning of those critical staffs needed to meet the collective

vision for the future National Fish Hatchery System.

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THIS MONTHLY REPORT PROVIDES A BRIEF, IN-HOUSE REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES, ISSUES OR EVENTS OF THE LOWER GREAT LAKES OFFICE. ITS CONTENTS SHOULD NOT BE USED OR CITED ELSEWHERE IN ANY WAY WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING OUR STAFF. THIS IS TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION.